

Essential research apps? Creating a library

<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/neverendingsearch/2010/08/16/essential-research-apps-what-would-you-download/>

October 10, 2012

Posted by [joycevalenza](#) on August 16th, 2010



As iPhones and iPads and other mobile devices enter our classrooms and our learners' backpacks and pockets, I've been wondering what types of little libraries they might be building to support their learning. And how we as librarians might help them select and build those libraries. This gathering of worthy apps may be especially timely with [Apple's news this week of a bulk purchasing option for education](#).

Back in the spring, I excitedly shared about Gale's new database apps in [AccessMyLibrary School Edition](#) and [Gale and Buffy \(a little more on the AccessMyLibrary app\)](#).

Since those posts I've been considering what a personal app library might include. We are able to broadcast our reference suggestions through our web-based pathfinders. But, right now, we cannot easily broadcast to our learners' mobile devices. We will need to make some suggestions.

Oh, I know there are equity issues. But, for the many of my kids who have devices now, and for those students who do have school-issued iPads, I am thinking that this fall we will create a little list for learners and their parents of research apps too good to miss. Here are a few suggestions, none costing more than the price of one or two songs on iTunes. Please add others in your comments!

(Full disclosure note: I long for, but do not yet own an iPad. I need your help here. I am working largely on how these apps look and work on my iPhone.)

[GALE- Access my Library](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. I've probably said enough in those prior posts. We buy it for them. Our students should have this quality material *available* to them. We need to make sure these apps are loaded. I am hoping the other database vendors follow Gale's lead.

[World Factbook 2010](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. This regularly updated ready reference tool covers more than 250 countries and territories of the world, with a sweet country comparison feature. Does not require a network connection for use.

[Dictionary.com](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Android, BlackBerry. Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, this hugely popular tool offers both a dictionary and thesaurus, phonetic and audio pronunciation, example sentences, non-standard uses, word origin and history. Shake your device to see a randomly-selected word. All but the audio pronunciations are available offline.

[Advanced English Dictionary and Thesaurus](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, Blackberry

Searches all 1.4 million English words, as well as



biographical and geographical information. Great for writers struggling with ideas, the AED shows how words are linked to each other, offers lists of more general and more specific words, as well as synonyms, antonyms, meronyms, hypernyms.

[Wikipedia](#) (free) For iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad.

This basic app provides mobile access to Wikipedia articles, a starting point for research, and very handy for ready reference. But consider . . .

[Wikipanion](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad and [Wikipanion Plus](#) (\$4.99)

The updated versions are a bit faster and easier than the basic access version, offering the following features focusing on zooming, media, and multitasking:

Streamline your browsing with history grouped by visit date, and bookmarking that not only bookmarks individual entries, but individual sections within an entry. Featuring intelligent features such as:

- Table of contents browser that knows where you are in the page
- Multiple search methods including Smart completion with entry preview, Google searching and a full text Wikipedia search
- Dual language searching and language switching (hiding languages you don't care about)
- Bookmark, including bookmarking individual sections of pages
- History, grouped by last visit date
- Full in-page searching
- Wiktionary dictionary term looking without leaving the current page
- Table based category browsing
- Interactive font resizing
- Image saving to the Photo library
- Ogg vorbis audio playback for dictionary pronunciations and other audio content available on Wikipedia
- Contextual knowledge for sending links to specific sections in a Wikipedia entry
- Easily turn on automatic focusing of the search field on launch

The slightly pricier [Wikipanion Plus](#), at \$4.99, adds Queue Mode, for keeping track of entries for accelerated



future browsing and reading.

[WorldBook This Day in History](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad.

The interactive, multimedia calendar is a handy tool for history teachers and students. It presents little known interesting facts and its media-rich offerings include photos, illustrations, music, and speeches.

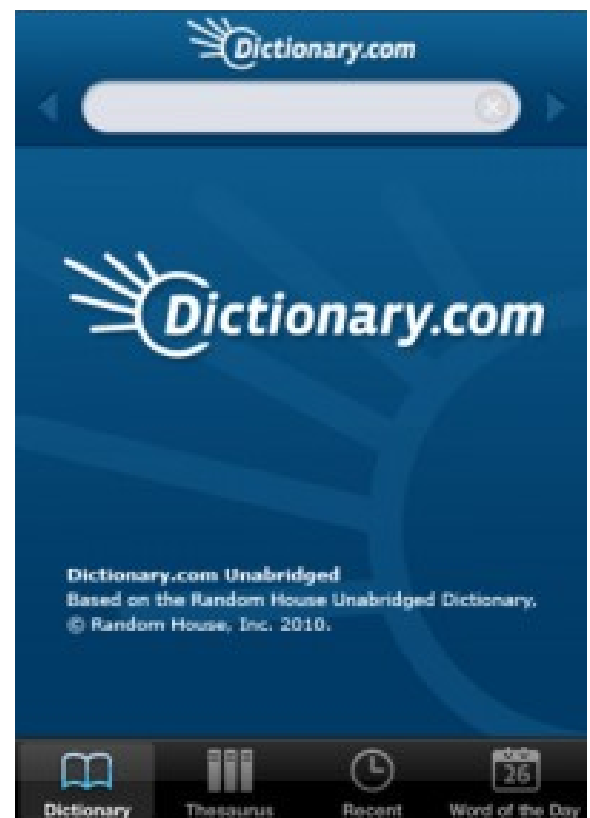
[U.S. Historical Documents](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad This one is a must for those AP DBQers and other history buffs.

An in-the-works pro version will have more features, but this little package allows you to walk around with more than 200 influential documents to search, annotate, bookmark, and highlight and scroll in either portrait and landscape views.

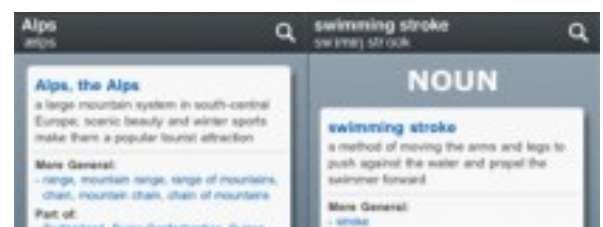
Locations are remembered and font size and colors are adjustable. Docs are stored directly for reading offline. Among the included documents:

- *Christopher Columbus Letter*
- *Virginia Charters*
- *Mayflower Compact*
- *First Thanksgiving Proclamation*
- *Stamp Act*
- *Declaration of Arms*
- *Declaration of Independence*
- *Fugitive Slave Law*
- *The Federalist Papers (all 85!)*
- *US Constitution*
- *CSA Constitution*
- *Gettysburg Address*
- *Emancipation Proclamation*
- *I Have A Dream*
- *All Inaugural Address of All Presidents*
- *State of the Union Addresses*
- *9/11 Documents*
- *The USA Patriot Act*
- *President Obama's Inauguration Speech*
- *Over 15 Landmark Supreme Court Cases*
- *Pres. Obama's 2009 Speech to the Joint Session of Congress*

Alternately, students may need separate apps for the [Constitution](#) or the [Declaration of Independence](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad, for easy access to those essential founding documents.



per·fect  [adj., n. **pur**-fikt; v. **per**-fekt]
-adjective
1. conforming absolutely to the description or definition of an ideal type: *a perfect sphere; a perfect gentleman.*
2. excellent or complete beyond practical or theoretical improvement: *There is no perfect legal code. The proportions of this temple are almost perfect.*
3. exactly fitting the need in a certain situation or for a certain purpose: *a perfect actor to play Mr. Micawber; a perfect saw for cutting out keyholes.*
4. entirely without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings: *a perfect apple; the*



[Famous Speeches](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad.

Includes many of history's most influential speeches, among them the words of Susan B. Anthony, Napoleon Bonaparte, Winston Churchill, Dwight Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth I, Mahatma Gandhi, Lou Gehrig, Patrick Henry, Adolph Hitler, Victor Hugo, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Vince Lombardi, Nelson Mandela, George Marshall, Richard M. Nixon, George Patton, Pericles, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, William Shakespeare, Harry Truman, Woodrow Wilson, and Malcolm X.

[History: Maps of World](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad.

This lovely free app provides a rich collection of high-resolution historical maps, searchable by category, era, and keyword, with zoom and rotation options. It does not require a network connection.

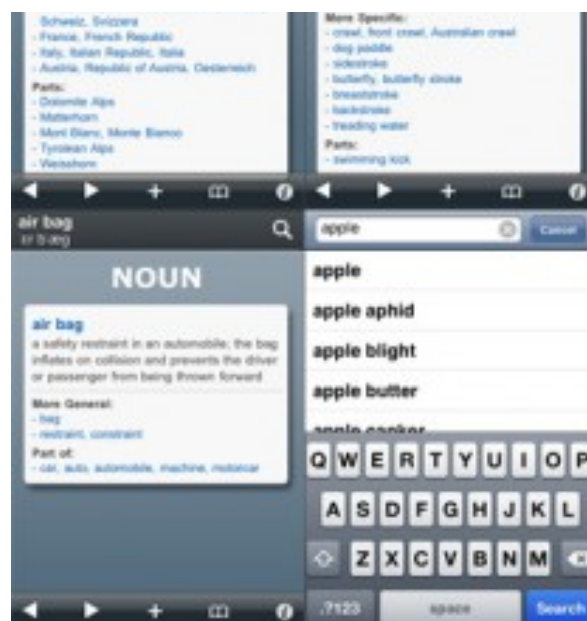
Included are:

- History:Maps of U.S.
- History:Maps of Europe
- History:Maps of Americas
- History:Maps of Africa
- History:Maps of Asia
- History:Maps of Middle East
- History:Maps of Oceania
- Thematic Maps of World
- History:Today

National Geographic World Atlas—actually, an atlas, factbook, and flag reference—offers Nat Geo's *highest resolution*, "press-ready" images, providing you the same rich detail, accuracy, and artistic beauty found in our award-winning wall maps and bound atlases. Included are pinch and zoomable, and push-pin markable executive, political, and satellite maps. To learn more about a particular country, tap and hold for a pop-up fact box. GPS compatibility makes the tool handy for travelers.

[MyCongress](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad.

This handy portal offers access to elected Congressional officials and the ability to easily track their profiles, contact information, news, video and Twitter feeds.



[The Periodic Table of Elements](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad.

This basic periodic table will be useful to science students and teachers. In addition to the usual background information, select any chemical attribute and *have the entire chart color coded to plainly show how the different elements vary with regard to the selected trait.*

Select among:

1. Atomic Number
2. Chemical Family
3. Electronegativity
4. Radioactivity
5. Melting Point
6. Boiling Point
7. State (Solid, Liquid or Gas)

[Science Glossary](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad

A glossary of scientific terms and short biographies that supports the [VisionLearning](#) site and its modules, but is nevertheless useful for all high school science students.

While not a reference app, this notetaking tool (for photos, text, and audio) is great for keeping track of notes and all sorts of sources across platforms.

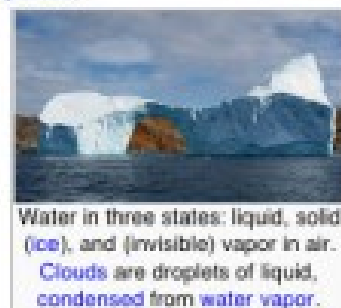
Students might also consider a variety of ebook apps for downloading essential ebooks for their courses. Many classic and older titles would be free. Among the options are

- [Kindle](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad)
- [Stanza](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad
- [Audiobooks](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad Listen to over 3,535 classic audiobooks, some mature
- [iBooks](#) (free) for iPhone and iPad
- [eBook Reader](#) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad
- [B&N eReader](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad
- [200 Great Books](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. A collection of classics, some mature.
- [Google Books](#) (free) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad
- [Children's Classics](#) (\$0.99) for iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. 16 kid classics.



This article is about the chemical substance. For its chemical and physical properties, see [water \(molecule\)](#). For other uses, see [Water \(disambiguation\)](#).

Water is a common [chemical substance](#) that is essential for the survival of all known forms of [life](#). In typical usage, water refers only to its [liquid](#) form or [state](#), but the substance also has a [solid](#) state, [ice](#), and a [gaseous](#) state, [water vapor](#) or [steam](#). About

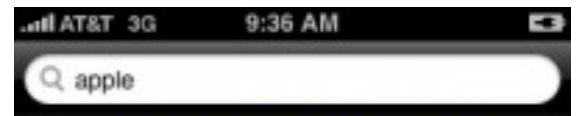


This post grew too long too fast. Look for museum and walking tour apps in an upcoming post. But, in your comments, please share any favorite reference apps I might have missed here.

No related posts.

This entry was posted on Monday, August 16th, 2010 at 5:37 am and is filed under apps, research . You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can leave a response, or trackback from your own site.

1.460 [petatonnes](#) (Pt) (10^{21} kilograms) of water covers 71% of the [Earth's](#) surface, mostly in oceans and other large water



See also [Apple](#), [A.P.P.L.E.](#), and [apple](#)

English

[Wikipedia](#)

Etymology

From [Old English](#) [æppel](#) ("fruit, apple") < [Proto-Germanic](#) *apala- < [Proto-Indo-European](#) *abl-, *ablu-. Cognate with [Scots aipple](#), [Dutch appel](#), [German Apfel](#), [Swedish äpple](#); and (*from IE*) with [Irish úll](#), [Lithuanian obuolys](#), [Russian](#)



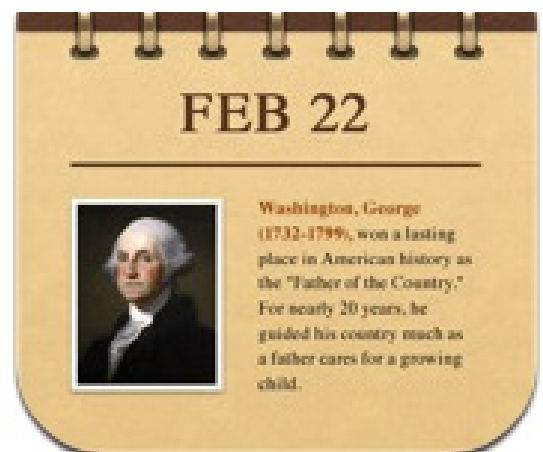
[Wikipedia](#) has an article on:

[Apple](#)



A red apple





Documents	
17th Century	Colonial Charter (1662)
<17th	
The First Thanksgiving Proclamation	
18th Century	
The Albany Plan of 1754	
Resolutions of the Stamp Act	
Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death	
Declaration of Arms	
Yankee Doodle	
20th	

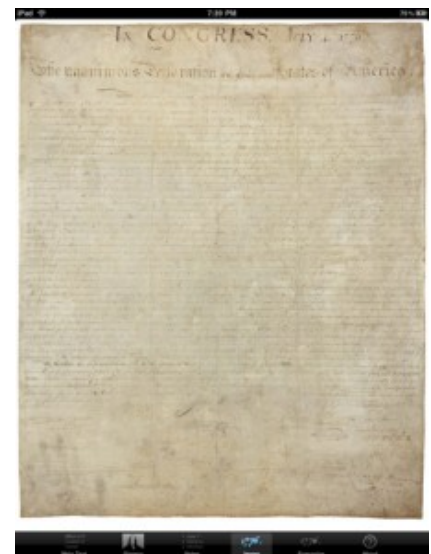
Declaration of Independence

About



Preside	Text	Notes
Preside		
Article I		
The Legislative Branch		"The part of this clause relating to the mode of apportionment of representatives among the several States has been affected by section 2 of amendment XIV, and as to taxes on incomes without apportionment by amendment XVI.
Article II		
The Executive		"This clause has been affected by clause 1 of amendment XVII.
Article III		
The Judiciary		"This clause has been affected by clause 2 of amendment XVIII.
Article IV		
The States		"This clause has been affected by amendment XX.
Article V		
The Amendment Process		"This clause has been affected by amendment XXVII.
Article VI		
Legal Status of the Constitution		"This clause has been affected by amendment XVI.
Article VII		
Ratification		
Signers		
Amendments I-X		
Bill of Rights		
Amendment XI		
State Apportionment		
Amendment XX		
Electoral College		
Amendment XXVII		
Amendment Process		
Amendment XIV		
Equal Protection, Privileges and Immunities of		
Amendment XV		
Right of Citizens to Vote		
Amendment XVI		
Income Tax		

Preside	Text	Notes
Preside		
Article I		
The Legislative Branch		ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the 11th Article of the original Constitution.
Article II		Amendment I
The Executive		Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
Article IV		Amendment II
The States		A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.
Article V		Amendment III
The Amendment Process		No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.
Article VI		Amendment IV
Legal Status of the Constitution		The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
Article VII		Amendment V
Ratification		
Signers		
Amendments I-X		
Bill of Rights		
Amendment XI		
State Apportionment		
Amendment XX		
Electoral College		
Amendment XXVII		
Amendment Process		
Amendment XIV		
Equal Protection, Privileges and Immunities of		
Amendment XV		
Right of Citizens to Vote		
Amendment XVI		
Income Tax		



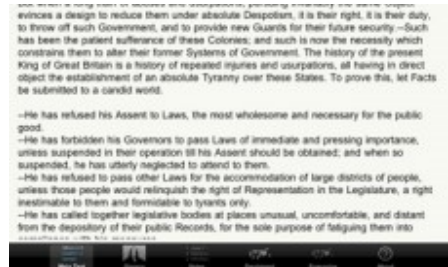
The Declaration of Independence

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object



Famous Speeches

Anthony, Susan B. 18th Century American Civil Rights Leader	>
Assisi, St. Francis 12th Century Roman Catholic Friar	>
Bonaparte, Napoleon French Military and Political Leader	>
Chamberlain, Neville Prime Minister of United Kingdom 1937-1940	>
Churchill, Winston Prime Minister of United Kingdom during WWII	>
Curie, Marie 19-20th Century Physicist and Chemist	>
de Gaulle, Charles Leader of Free French Forces 1940-1944	>
Edward VIII, King 20th Century King of United Kingdom	>
Eisenhower, Dwight D. U.S. WWII General and U.S. President	>
Elizabeth I. Queen	>

Kennedy,.... Inaugural Address...

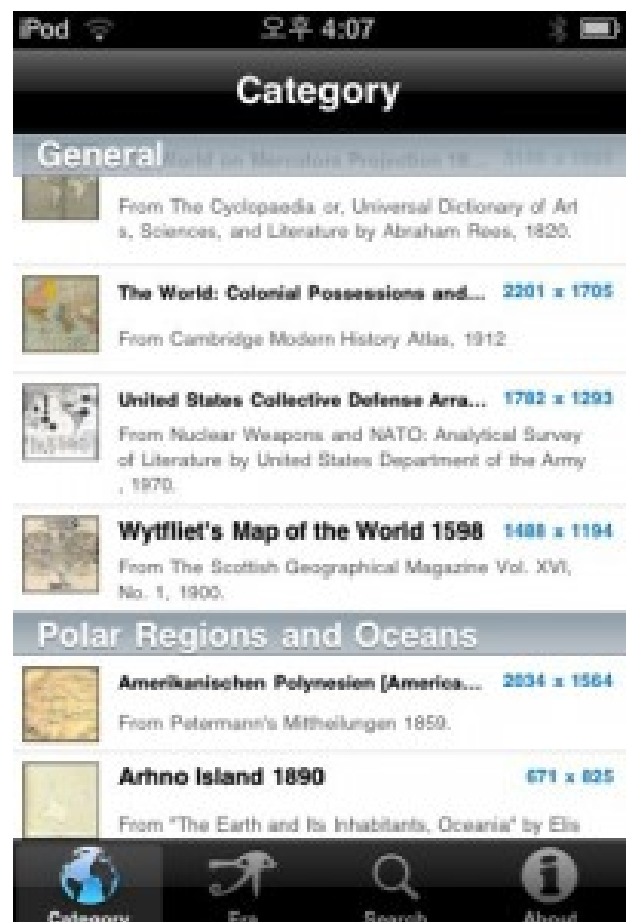
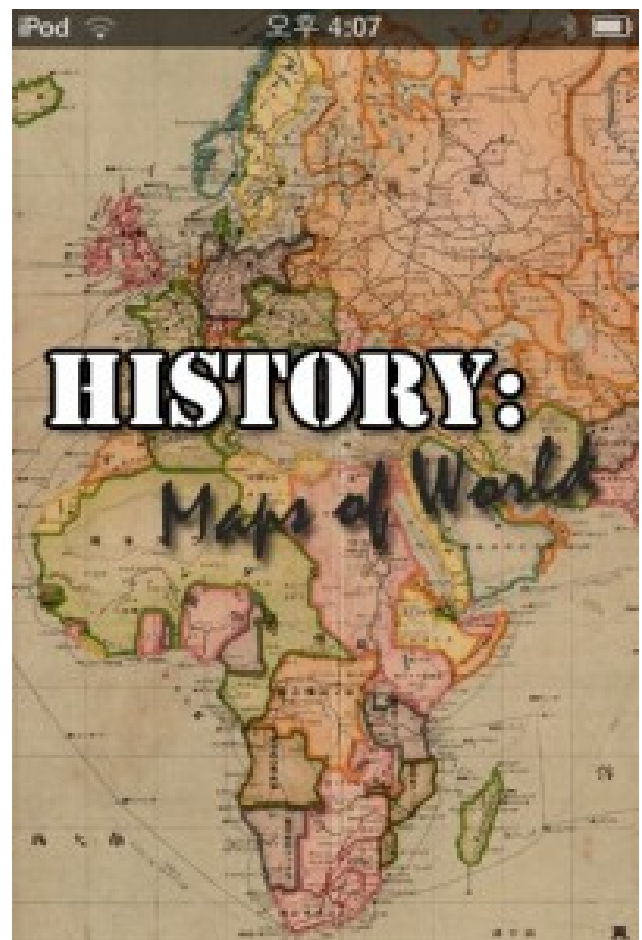
not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it. And the glow from that fire can truly light the world.

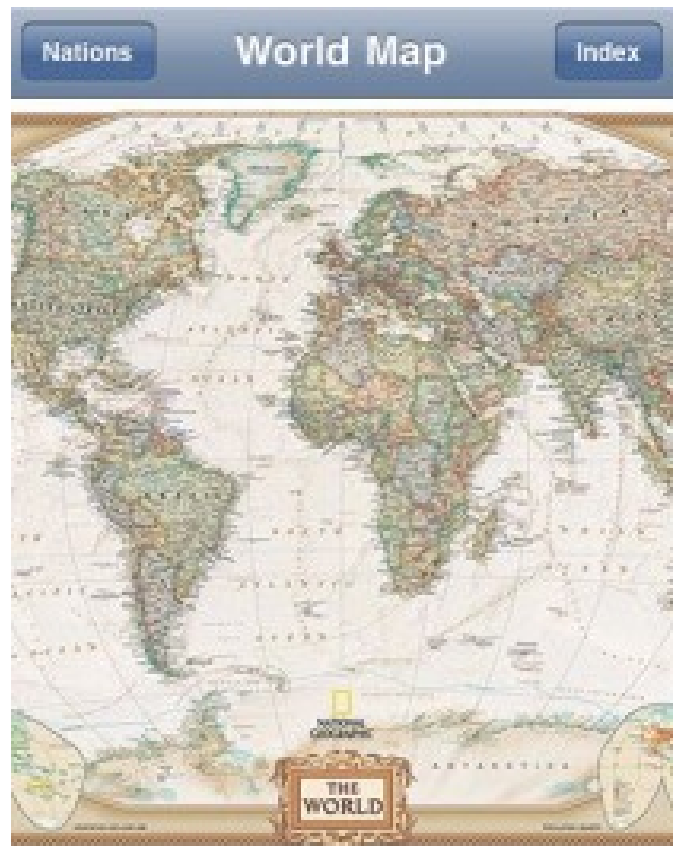
And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

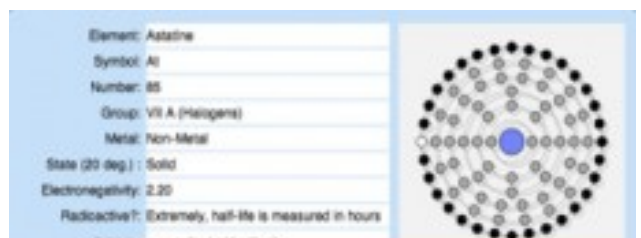
My fellow citizens of the world, ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.

Finally, whether you are citizens of America or citizens of the world, ask of

us here the same high standards of







More Information about Iodine	
Element:	Iodine
Symbol:	I
Number:	53
Group:	VII A (Halogens)
Metal:	Non-Metal
Electronegativity:	2.10
Radioactive?:	No
Orbitals:	$[Kr]4s^24d^55p^5$
Melting Point:	114 °C
Boiling Point:	115 °C
Density:	4.93
% earth's crust:	No measurable amount.
Ionization Energy:	10.45
Year of Discovery:	1811
Atomic Weight:	126.90
About the name:	
<p>The name iodine comes from the word <i>iodine</i> meaning violet. When heated this blue-black solid releases a violet vapor. (Iodine is one of the few substances that goes from a solid state directly to a gaseous state when heated, a process called sublimation.)</p>	
About the symbol:	
<p>The symbol for Iodine is I, the first letter of its name.</p>	
About the family:	
<p>Group VII A (Halogens) have one 'hole' in the outer shell. They desperately want to complete this shell, so they try to grab an electron and are highly reactive.</p>	

AT&T 9:38 PM




Visionlearning

Welcome to the
Science Glossary @ Visionlearning!

An extensive glossary
that supplements our
free online science
learning
modules.



AT&T 10:37 AM	
Index Cancel	
C	A
Crust	B
The uppermost 5-70 km of the earth. Th...	C
Crystal	D
A solid of defined shape that is bound...	E
Crystallize/Crystallization	F
The process through which crystals for...	G
Curie, Marie	H
The Polish physicist and chemist born...	I
Curie, Pierre	J
The French physicist born in Paris, Fran...	K
Cytoplasm	L
The internal fluid of a cell (called cytosol...	M
D	N
Dalton, John	O
English physicist, chemist and meteorol...	P
Dana, James Dwight	Q
American geologist, mineralogist, and...	R
Darwin. Charles	S
	T
	U
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AT&T 4:05 PM	
Filtered notes	
San Francisco, California	
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	Not Tagged
Santa Clara, California	
	Untitled Note
	Oct 16, 2008 4:01 PM
	Not Tagged
Santa Cruz, California	
	mmw concert
	Nov 19, 2008 10:55 PM

